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ITALIAN PRESIDENT PERTINI ADDRESSES CONGRESS

Vice President Martinez Speech

PY130045 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2024 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (TELAM) -- Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez today noted Argentina and Italy have a lot to discuss and to do together, adding that the two nations share the same view about the need to arrive at an overall solution to those problems arising from underdevelopment.

In the speech he delivered this afternoon to the National Congress during the special legislative session held in honor of visiting Italian President Sandro Pertini, Vice President Victor Martinez noted that the current international economic crisis should not be used as an excuse for more prosperous countries to not get involved in the situation. He also noted that we should value the attitude of those who intend to increase aid programs for developing countries.

The Argentine vice president, who preceded Pertini in delivering his speech, briefly discussed those economic problems affecting Argentina, noting first the burden of the foreign debt that causes anxiety. Victor Martinez said that an inadequate development structure has indebted the country internally, affecting workers, producers, and businessmen because of inflation, and discouraging them in view of restrictions imposed on Argentine trade.

He said that Argentina understands and accepts a politically and economically united Europe, but that it also requests European nations to pay attention to other regions that should not be forgotten and that should be allowed just development.

He added: "There are other issues that we believe should be the concern of the great powers, among which we include Italy: These are the contributions to achieve, world peace and the need to halt an arms race that only helps to promote conflicts and malnutrition in a hungry world."

Victor Martinez noted that peace must be maintained through the support of the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries, and the respect of the self-determination of nations. He requested the implementation of a specific plan that will contribute solutions to end colonialism, against which we shall continue to struggle in all international forums.

The Argentine vice president praised Italian President Sandro Pertini whom he said was a glorious fighter in the resistance against fascism during World War II.

Pertini Address

PY122124 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2032 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (TELAM) -- Italian President Sandro Pertini this afternoon noted that, thanks to its people, today Argentina is again on its feet and is in its most promising phase in its history. He added that Italy is thankful for the example that Argentina has given to the rest of the world, and for its contribution toward strengthening democracy.

Pertini addressed the Argentine Congress during a special session held in his honor.

The visiting head of state expressed his joy at being able to address a congress which through the express will of the people has been restored to its duties of presiding over freedom, safeguarding democracy, and guaranteeing the noble rights of the Argentine nation.

He noted: "Peace and freedom are the eternal dream of humanity. Although sometime difficult to achieve, they are never forgotten. In this marvelous stage of its history, Argentina, which has overcome a period of darkness, is again able to see the stars and to undertake a new path of hope."

After noting that both Argentina and Italy had to confront dictatorial governments, he added that in view of these parallel experiences, I have come here as the representative of the Italian people to celebrate with you the victory which you have achieved which we feel is also ours.

Members of the diplomatic corps, the executive branch, his entourage, and the Armed Forces, along with members of the Argentine legislature, listened as Pertini noted that if we draw away from democracy we run the risk of becoming victims of brutality and beastly practices. Nazi-fascism with its moral abyss and its perverse practices of annihilation are evidence of this.

He added: "But, the recent terrorist events that my country experienced teaches that this sad phenomenon is about to be overcome by the strength of the Italian democratic conscious, without the enactment of any special laws, or praetorian regulations or the creation of extraordinary courts or military courts.

Later Pertini honored the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo by noting that the heroism of those women, Argentine mothers and wives who firmly challenged the power of the dictatorship, compares with the same spiritual force shown by Antigone when she demanded Creon to hand her the body of her brother in keeping with the demand that goes beyond any written law, that of humanity. I shall never be able to forget my clandestine meetings with the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo. Their cries still echo in my heart.

Pertini ended his speech with a moving salute to the great, glorious, free, and sovereign Argentine nation, noting: Long live Congress; Long live the lasting friendship between Argentina and Italy. He said this as legislators responded with thunderous applause.

Departs 12 March

PY121054 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0301 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (TELAM) -- Italian President Sandro Pertini left Ezeiza Airport at 0100 [0300 GMT] on board an Argentine Airline plane bound for [words indistinct], after a stay of more than 50 hours in Argentina.

The Italian president's departure was delayed for approximately 5 hours due to a problem in one of the turbines of the Alitalia plane in which he was to have traveled.

Pertini decided to cut short his visit to our country, a visit which was to have lasted until 13 March, because he plans to attend the funeral of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko in Moscow.

CABINET DISCUSSES COB STRIKE, ECONOMIC SITUATION

PY121614 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President Siles' cabinet has evaluated the indefinite general strike ordered by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] during a meeting that lasted over 3 hours at Government House. This announcement was made to the press by Planning and Coordination Minister Freddy Justiniano upon leaving Government House.

Minister Justiniano told the press that the ministers first listened to a detailed report from the mining and metallurgy minister about the talks being held with leaders of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers [FSTMB] regarding the federation's proposals. The minister pointed out that the issues discussed involved the problems of basic food supplies and prices, an adjustable minimum wage, and special financing for the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol].

[Begin recording] In addition to those issues, we also discussed the integration of the National Smelting Enterprise into Comibol, the monopoly of gold exploitation by Comibol, the prohibition on private mines to export mineral concentrates; the nationalization of heavy transport, the nationalization of urban transportation, the nonpayment of the foreign debt to the international private banks, the non-recognition of the debt contracted by the military regimes, the [word indistinct] of foreign trade, the nationalization of private banks, the [words indistinct] of essential goods, the elimination of the parallel U.S. dollar market, the monopoly on food storage by the state, and the reinstatement of some points in the agrarian reform law based on the proposals put forth by Comibol. [end recording]

Justiniano also said that the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] Government will negotiate as much as necessary to solve the nation's labor problems. He said that during the cabinet meeting on the evening of 11 March the ministers made a general evaluation of the country's situation.

[Begin recording] The government wants to clearly establish three issues [words indistinct]: The first issue is obviously political, an issue which was not included in the government program presented by the UDP in three consecutive elections. In this regard, there are obviously proposals which require structural changes which cannot be made due to the little time the government has left in office. Second, we are continuing the dialogue. We are not going to lower ourselves by resorting to insults as done by some leaders who unfortunately are not aware of the dialogue process and the cordial and open tone always adopted by the government. We believe that this is the time for reflection not only by union leaders, but also by the entire population. They should realize that certain expressions that hurt people and the country's image should not be used. [end recording]

The planning minister added that the cabinet also discussed the Bolivian economy. He said that because of the indefinite general strike ordered by the COB, over 140,000 public employees will not be paid because there will be no economic resources available. The minister said that if this happens it will not be the government's responsibility. He added: We are going to have problems paying salaries for March.

The cabinet ministers also discussed the Bolivian foreign debt. Reinaldo Cardozo, who had traveled to Washington for a special meeting on the debt, briefed the ministers.

[Begin Justiniano recording] There are three positive points: First, the international banks publicly recognized that Bolivia cannot pay its foreign debt. Second, the banks also recognized that they must financially cooperate in projects to allow Bolivia to export and to search for new export markets for Bolivian products of the private and public sectors, all aimed in the long run at paying the debt. Third, there was absolutely no discussion of the problems of delaying payments and interest which [words indistinct] began with the renegotiation during the Garcia Meza administration. There has been total support for this type of negotiations, which lead us to believe that there will not be any actions against Bolivia because obviously we have solved one of the main [words indistinct] problems we had in the past. [end recording]

MINISTER CHARGES COB 'EXTREMISTS' WITH COUP PLOT

PY121831 Paris AFP in Spanish 1814 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Deputy Interior Minister Gustavo Sanchez today in La Paz charged that extremist groups that are encrusted in the COB are openly working for the overthrow of President Hernan Siles Zuazo. The charge coincides with military reinforcements and an increase in the supply of munitions at Government House.

GEN SEJAS SAYS ARMED FORCES WILL DEFEND GOVERNMENT

PY130133 Paris AFP in Spanish 2244 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 12 Mar (AFP) -- The Bolivian Armed Forces will not only preserve peace and order in the country, but they will defend the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Armed Forces Commander General Simon Sejas Tordoya said today here. Sejas Tordoya and the commanders of the three military branches today met with President Siles to brief him on the military situation in the country and to receive his instructions regarding the massive mobilization of workers on the streets of La Paz. Sejas said that by order of the captain general of the Armed Forces (President Siles), the military will fulfill its constitutional duties which are to maintain social peace, preserve private property, and ensure people's safety, as well as the normal work of basic services.

He added that no military officer or group of officers is linked with political activities, and much less linked with labor leaders who are promoting the COB-ordered indefinite general strike which is now in its fifth day. The Armed Forces are strongly united and under the leadership of its commanders, Gen Sejas Tordoya said at Government House.

COB OPENS BANK TO PAY WAGES; GOVERNMENT RESPONDS

Employees Ordered To Work

PY120251 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The national banking sector will work normally on 12 March and it will proceed to pay wages and handle savings accounts and other services. We reiterate, all states and private banks will work on 12 March.

A communique issued by the Bolivian Bank Workers Confederation [CTB] says the following:

In compliance with the orders issued by the COB Executive Committee, all national workers dependent on the CTB are instructed to return to work in order to pay wages and handle savings accounts and other services on Tuesday, 12 March 1985 at 0900, until all wages are paid.

If there is not enough money to pay public workers, the departmental banking federations will have to inform the corresponding authorities by means of their legitimate representatives in compliance with this order, the document says.

The document is signed by Jorge Rosales and Raul Porcel, national CTB leaders.

'Leopards' Oust Bank Employees

PY121920 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1725 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 12 Mar (EFE) -- The police Bural Mobil Patrol Unit [Umopar], known as the Leopards, today look over the installations of the Bolivian Central Bank, forcing the bank workers to leave the bank facilities.

Walter Delgadillo, executive secretary of the COB, reported that another police unit used tear gas on a mineworker during a labor march. Doctor Carlos Vila Rodriguez, the director of Comibol clinic, told EFE that a mineworker had been was brought into the clinic with abrasions caused by a grenade thrown by the police.

So far today the Bolivian police have guarded only strategic points of the city, such as Plaza Murillo where Government Palace is located, which is cordoned off by uniformed policemen for the fifth consecutive day.

The meeting of 12,000 mineworkers and 5,000 housewives from the poor districts threatened to take measures supporting the bank workers and protesting the police action. Mineworkers marched through the main streets of La Paz detonating dynamite sticks.

In a communique the Bank Workers Union of the Bolivian Central Bank said that the police action prevented the payment of as waged ordered by the COB. Despite the fact that the government last night warned that it would not allow the opening of the banks for the payment of wages, bank workers today went to work to comply with the COB order.

Delegadillo said that the police actions could lead to a response with unpredictable consequences by the mineworkers who so far have had a peaceful attitude. He criticized the government for using violence against the workers while representatives of both sides are negotiating to find a solution to the strike which is on its fifth day, a situation which is increasing the social and political tension.

COB Scores Police Actions

PY122045 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The COB holds that the government is preventing the payment of wages to workers who were unable to collect them. Thus, the situation appears to be critical as of this morning, as we have already pointed out, when the Leopards occupied the offices of the Bolivian Central Bank.

COB CALLS FOR MASS MARCH IN LA PAZ ON 13 MARCH

PY122015 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The COB has called all workers to participate in a march scheduled for tomorrow beginning at 0830. The workers are to gather at San Francisco Square and then they will march through the main streets of the city. All the mineworkers who are currently in the city of La Paz will participate in the march.

MINISTER SAYS STRIKE THREATENS ELECTIONS, NATION

PY121845 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] If this, atmosphere of social conflict continues, it will be impossible to hold general elections on 16 June, but any changes depend not only on the Electoral Court but also on the legislative branch which must promulate a law. However, the executive branch reiterates that it is willing to hold the elections as scheduled. This statement was made by Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata regarding a possible postponement of the elections.

[Begin recording] I agree with the Electoral Court because I believe that the way things are now it will be practically impossible to hold elections as scheduled. However, I would like to make clear that the executive branch insists on the need to hold elections as scheduled on 16 June 1985. Any changes that could be made to the established schedule will depend on the Electoral Court, and more importantly on a [word indistinct] which should be made through a special law of the legislative branch. [end recording]

The interior minister also said that there are no guarantees at the present time. In this regard, he said that if the country does not overcome this conflict it could have moments of pain and suffering.

[Begin recording] Obviously, the national situation is not only jeopardizing the established procedures for holding the elections, but also the existence of the country itself. We are sliding down an extremely difficult path and this is what I would like every one to realize. We are risking all the values of civilized existence which we have experienced lately. I believe that if we do not do something, if we do not find a remedy to overcome this state of events, Bolivia could have days of pain and suffering [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The interior minister then denied that the government sabotaged the workers and employees who today had to get paid; on the contrary, it is the COB which should lift its strike and allow normality to prevail.

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] we learned that some act was going to be held which would have jeoparidized the security of some state institutions. The police were mobilized to safeguard these institutions. However, the COB said that this police intervention was sabotage by the government because salaries were going to be paid today as decided by the COB. If this was the case, the COB should have immediately suspended the strike to allow not only the banks but all state institutions to operate normally. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT OFFERS 50 PERCENT WAGE BONUS

PY131257 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The government of President Siles Zuazo has decided to offer workers a 50 percent bonus to be added to the basic salary of 935,000 Bolivian pesos as of March to satisfy the demands made by the COB. This information was disclosed by Planning and Coordination Minister Freddy Justiniano early this morning at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting to discuss the COB proposals.

[Begin Justiniano recording] This undoubtedly means a new economic effort not only on the part of the national treasury and the state enterprises, but also on the part of the economy in general.

In accordance with the salary policies proposed by the government, we would like to point out that the adjustable salary scale continues in force and it will be implemented in April within a general policy and in accordance with the possibilities of our economy. The people should know that under this government's effort the minimun salary is now practically 2.4 million pesos, without considering other factors. The 1,550,000-peso bonus, which has not yet been added to the salary, the transportation bonus, and other benefits bring the salaries to a higher level. [end recording]

Minister Justiniano said that the answer to other COB demands is included in a document which the government is going to release to the workers today.

SPLINTER GROUP REJOINS PAZ ESTENSSORO'S MNR

PY091337 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The legalist faction of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] has again joined the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] led by Victor Paz Estenssoro, and a single party has been formed for the 16 June elections. This information was learned from a letter sent by Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro to Senator Luis Pelaez Rioja and Deputy Sanuel Gallardo Lozada, who are both leaders of the legalist MNRI. According to Senator Luis Pelaez Rioja, the legalist MNRI requested to be reincorporated into the MNR after an analysis of the situation of the country. The senator believes that the return to the MNR is a highly important event.

DRUG TRAFFICKING, CONCERN OVER U.S. AID CUT OFF

PY071540 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpts] No official notice on the possibility of ceasing all aid to the Bolivian Government for not complying with its commitments in the fight against drug trafficking has been issued. A local newspaper yesterday published a front page article stating that the U.S. House of Representatives is concerned about the alleged lack of seriousness in Bolivia to eradicate drug trafficking. The report also said that if U.S. aid was cut off immediately, it would affect the military and development programs. In order to get more details about these reports, Panamericana talked with the president of the National Anti Drug Trafficking Committee, Colonel Carlos Fernandez Gonzelez, who told us that these reports may just be international press speculation because no official notice has been received yet. He added that if such a notice is received, it would be unfair, since the Bolivian democratic government has done and is doing everything possible to fight drug trafficking.

[Begin Fernandez recording] We have signed a bilateral agreement with the U.S. Government on the fight against drug trafficking. However, we believe that the U.S. aid granted us is not as important as aid given to other countries. Those countries, which are merely intermediaries in drug trafficking to the United States, have received greater aid. The other day we were shown some pictures of the help given by the U.S. Government to Mexico. They were given transportation, helicopters, etc., and we never got that kind of help, despite the fact that ours is the country that produces the raw material for cocaine. We therefore think that the aid given to us is not enough, and even President Siles has stated this in a press conference. However, if U.S. aid to fight drug trafficking in Bolivia is discontinued, it will not prevent our government from continuing its plan to fight drug trafficking. We will probably be at a disadvantage, but 90 percent of the effort is Bolivian, so it would not stop us from continuing our task. [end recording]

NAMES OF NEVES CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

PY121541 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 1426 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Statement by Hugo Castelo Branco, chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency, at the Vargas Foundation building in Brasilia -- live]

[Text] I now have the honor to read the list of names of the persons who will be members of the new cabinet in the Tancredo Neves government:

Minister Chief of the Military Household	General Rubens Bayma Denys
Justice Minister	Fernado Lyra
Navy Minister	Admiral Enrique Saboya
Army Minister	General Leonidas Pires
Foreign Minister	Olavo Setubal
Finance Minister	Francisco Dornelles
Transport Minister	Afonso Camargo
Agriculture Minister	Pedro Simon
Education Minister	Marco Maciel
Labor Minister	Almir Pazzianotto
Aeronautics Minister	General Octavio Moreira Lima
Health Minister	Carlos Santanna
Industry and Commerce Minister	Roberto Gusmao
Mines and Energy Minister	Aureliano Chaves
Planning Minister	Joao Sayad
Interior Minister	Ronaldo Costa
Communications Minister	Antonio Carlos Magalhaes
Social Security Minister	Waldir Pires
Minister Chief of the National Intelligence Service	General Ivan de Souza Mendes
Chief of the Joint Staff	Jose Maria do Amaral Oliveira
Minister for Land Related Affairs	Nelson Ribeiro
Minister for Debureaucratization and Decentralization	Paulo (Lustrosa)
Science and Technology Minister	Renato Archer
Culture Minister	Jose Aparecido de Oliveira
Housing and Urban Affairs Minister	Flavio Peixoto
Administration Minister	Aluizio Alves
General government consultant	(Darci de Souza)
Attorney General	Jose Paulo Sepulveda
Government leader in the Chamber of Deputies	(Pimenta Barriga)
Government leader in the Senate	Humberto Lucena
Government leader in Congress	Fernando Enrique Cardozo

Following are the names of President Neves' private cabinet:

Special adviser	Tancredo Augusto Neves
Private secretary	Antonia Goncalves de Araujo
Secretary for special affairs	Aecio Neves Cunha
Secretary for extraordinary affairs	Mauro Salles

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS EEC, ITALIAN ACTIONS

PY121411 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Report from Foreign Ministry by Jose Francisco Contreras]

[Text] This afternoon the EEC expressed to the Chilean Foreign Ministry its concern over the court-martial of three persons charged with the murder of Santiago Intendant General Carol Urzua, and it requested that the prisoners be granted their legitimate right to a defense.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry this afternoon presented a strong protest note to the Italian Government because of statements made in Washington by Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi about the Chilean political situation.

Italian Charge d'Affaires Francesco Caruso, in his capacity as EEC representative in Chile, held a meeting this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry with Juan Carlos Valero, Chilean official in charge of UN affairs [as heard]. Caruso expressed the EEC's concern over the trial of three persons charged with killing General Urzua.

According to the Italian diplomat, this concern is not interference in the legal process, rather these countries are requesting that these persons be tried in keeping with normal court proceedings and not under exceptional proceedings where they have no right to legal defense. He added that this is an urgent EEC request since on 8 March the Supreme Court rejected the last appeal submitted by the defense.

In view of this, Foreign Ministry spokesman Marcelo Padilla has noted: This concern expressed by the EEC is worthy of attention since it is expressing concern over terrorists who have confessed their involvement in the killing of the late Santiago intendant. This shows how a campaign to distort the real situation in Chile can lead friendly countries to express concern about terrorists.

In a second visit to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, Italian Charge d'Affaires Caruso was handed a strong protest note issued by the Chilean Foreign Ministry and handed over by Raul Schmidt, director general of the Foreign Ministry Foreign Policy Department.

According to Padilla, the Italian charge held a meeting this afternoon with the Foreign Ministry Foreign Policy Department director general, who handed Caruso a strong protest note over the recent statement made in Washington by Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi about the democratic transition in Chile.

According to Padilla, Craxi's statements are not in keeping with the moral standards to be followed by countries that maintain normal diplomatic relations, rather they are an open violation of international law and the UN Charter. He added: No state has the right to interfere in the domestic or foreign affairs of others nor to propose measures to coerce other states. We trust that this political passion, which reminds us of former Fascist times when Mussolini intervened in Ethiopia, shall not continue to affect relations between Chile and Italy.

On 6 March, Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi urged democratic nations to jointly strive for the return of democracy in Latin America, particularly in Chile. At the time, Craxi added that above everything there is the appeal for freedom issued by the Chilean people, a people with democratic and civil traditions who have a right to free elections. The Italian charge has declined to comment on the Chilean Foreign Ministry protest note since he has had no time to read it and since he has no official version of Prime Minister Craxi's statement.

BETANCUR, RAMIREZ CONDOLENCES ON CHERNENKO DEATH

PA121930 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Bogota -- President Belisario Betancur and Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo have sent condolence messages to the USSR in the wake of the death of CPSU General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko.

The text of the messages follow:

Your Excellency Mr Nikolay Tikhonov, president of the Council of Ministers, Moscow, USSR:

I was deeply touched by news of the death of His Excellency Mr Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and CPSU general secretary.

On my behalf and that of the Colombian Government I would like to express deep condolences in view of the irreparable loss of a leader who tirelessly sought the achievement of peaceful coexistence as the only way to restore international harmony and decrease the nuclear threat as much as possible.

Mr Chairman of the Council of Ministers: Allow me to take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate my highest and distinguished consideration.

[Signed] Belisario Betancur, president of Colombia

The message sent by the foreign minister reads:

To Your Excellency Andrey Gromyko, minister of foreign affairs, Moscow, USSR:

Mr Minister: Please allow me to voice my most sincere sorrow in view of the news of the death of His Excellency Mr Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and CPSU general secretary. His virtues as a statesman, head of state, and advocator of an improvement in North-South and East-West relations have given him a most eminent position in history.

Please convey my condolences to the Soviet Government, people, and relatives of the illustrious late leader. I take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest and most distinguished consideration.

[Signed] Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, Colombian foreign minister

BETANCUR, GUATEMALAN LEADER ISSUE STATEMENT

PA110445 Paris AFP in Spanish 0623 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota, 8 Mar (AFP) -- Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores admitted today that the democratic system is the one that best responds to the aspirations of mankind and that the mission of the Army is to maintain the country's sovereignty and defense.

Mejia Victores, who is in Colombia for a 3-day official visit, pointed out the work that his government is conducting to lead Guatemala back to democracy and said that "the Armed Forces institution was not created to govern."

He added: "What my government is showing the Armed Forces institution is that it must be a state entity for defending the country's sovereignty and territory and for maintaining peace and development in Guatemala." The Guatemalan ruler made this statement during a news conference.

This position also appears in a joint declaration signed by Mejia Victores and Colombian President Belisario Betancur, who expressed his satisfaction over Guatemala's return to a freely elected system of government.

After having been informed by the Guatemalan head of state about the schedule for the return to democracy, Betancur hailed the spirit of Mejia and characterized him as a man who knew how to respond to this historic Guatemalan moment.

In their joint declaration, the two heads of state pointed out their concern over "the strong tension" that persists in Central America and rejected any kind of foreign interference. Mejia was asked for his opinion about the persisting position of the two big blocs against statements of support for the Contadora Group. He responded by saying flatly: "Latin America's interests are more important than those of the superpowers."

Answering a question about the fate of General Rios Montt, Mejia Victores said: "Since he was a general and the Army's statutes establish that when a military man leaves the post of president of the Republic he must retire, he is currently living in Guatemala dedicated to religious activities."

Regarding Guatemalan refugees who are in Mexico, Mejia Victores said that his government is prepared to receive them with all the necessary guarantees so that they may rejoin Guatemalan society and development.

Mejia Victores and Betancur noted in their joint declaration their concern over the arms race "which is not only going overboard in the nuclear field but also conventionally." They also agreed to promote international actions aimed at ending the trafficking use of drugs. The public stated their "deep concern" over the effects of the world economic crisis on the developing nations, especially on Latin America.

In ratifying their support for the Cartagena Consensus on the Latin America debt, the heads of state scored the protectionist measures adopted by the industrialized countries that impede the economic growth of the poor nations. They also agreed that it is necessary to reform the OAS Charter so that it may be in tune with the true political, economic, and social situation of the nations that form the organization.

Betancur and Mejia Victores agreed to increase their commercial relations. Colombia offered to help Guatemala through the Technical Cooperation and Assistance Fund for Central America and the Caribbean. Mejia Victores, who will be returning tomorrow, Saturday, to his country, told journalists that once democracy is installed in Guatemala, he will retire to write his memoirs "which are already extensive," he claimed.

GOVERNMENT OFFERS POLITICAL ASYLUM TO MISKITOS

PA111742 Bogota Radio Cadena Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] San Andres Island -- the Colombian Government has offered political asylum to several Nicaraguan Miskito Indian leaders, but only if they live in Colombia's continental territory. President Belisario Betancur Cuartas and Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo made the offer to Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera. Rivera and other Miskito Indians who oppose the Sandinist regime were on San Andres Island when President Betancur arrived to inaugurate a technical education center for the Caribbean area.

It was learned that Colombia will grant asylum to Miskitos who request it. However, the Miskitos must settle in the country's continental territory, that is, outside the San Andres y Providencia Intendancy so that the area will not become a base for anti-Nicaraguan attacks.

PRESIDENT SENDS CONDOLENCES ON CHERNENKO'S DEATH

PA120326 Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 0259 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Quito, 11 Mar (REUTER) -- Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran has reported that President Leon Febres Cordero sent his condolences to Moscow today on the passing away of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

During a press conference, Teran said that Febres Cordero sent his condolences to the Supreme Soviet and Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko "for this unfortunate event that has cast the Soviet people and government into mourning."

Teran added that, during Chernenko's time in office, Moscow made important efforts to achieve a rapprochement with the United States to establish firmer bases for world peace.

The foreign minister said that Ecuadoran Ambassador to Moscow Bolivar Valladares and Fernando Yepes, secretary of the Ecuadoran mission, will attend Chernenko's funeral.

SALVADORAN MINISTER ON VISIT, PEACE PROCESS

PA101536 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] El Salvador continues to hold talks within the Contadora Group for the goal of achieving peace in Central America, said Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio. He stressed that the Salvadoran Government supports Contadora and seeks a Latin American consensus on the issue.

[Begin recording] [Tenorio] The Salvadoran Government fully supports the Contadora process. The process has suffered some slight setbacks due to attitudes such as those of the Nicaraguans, when they seized the refugee, who was returned yesterday or the day before yesterday to Costa Rica through Colombia. However, the process continues and our government supports it, sanctions it, and endorses it. We are cooperating in the preparation of the Contadora Document and we are maintaining a positive attitude as befits possible signers of a treaty. We trust that the process will end with the signing of a treaty that will guarantee stability and tranquillity to all Central Americans, and will also make it possible to continue their economic development.

[Reporter] What is the reason for the Salvadoran [words indistinct]?

[Tenorio] I beg your pardon.

[Reporter] Are human rights respected in El Salvador?

[Tenorio] They are respected. Events in the past cannot be blamed on the Salvadoran Government or the Army. As in all countries, as I said earlier, acts of violence are reported without stating who committed them. We do not deny that there have been extremists on both sides -- the right and the left -- who have committed acts of violence and violated human rights. However, I can guarantee that President Duarte's government, and the Human Rights Commission has acknowledged this at the United Nations and will do the same at Geneva, is not responsible for any violations of human rights. On the contrary, it is implementing a strong policy to control the abuses that extremist groups outside the government may commit.

[Reporter] What is the purpose of your visit to Ecuador?

[Tenorio] My visit is of a political-diplomatic nature, to talk with the Ecuadoran Government, with Foreign Minister Teran, with Vice President Blasco Penaherrera, and to bring them up to date on the situation in Central America and the Salvadoran points of view. We will also discuss the possibility of establishing closer trade relations with Ecuador, technical and geothermal cooperation, and other forms of cooperation which we think would be mutually advantageous. [end recording]

COSTA RICAN MINISTER PROPOSES REGIONAL MEETING

PA130400 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, who is currently on an official visit to Ecuador said today that Costa Rica has proposed an urgent meeting of the Central American foreign ministers in order to reactivate the pacification process in the region.

We hope that this meeting will take place before the end of the month, said Gutierrez, who arrived in Quito last night on a 2-day visit. Gutierrez said that Costa Rica is not trying to boycott the Contadora Group's actions, adding that moreover, our country is promoting new ideas to achieve durable peace in Central America. He believes that the problem resulting from the arrest of Jose Manuel Urbina Lara by Sandinist authorities has been solved.

In addition, Gutierrez reiterated Costa Rica's neutral position in the Central American conflict, and that it does not want to get involved in it, denying that his country is helping Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups or foreign forces. Gutierrez stressed: Costa Rica is no one's aircraft carrier or military base.

Gutierrez will sign a treaty for the delimitation of territorial waters between the Galapagos Islands and Isla del Coco during his visit in Ecuador. He will also meet with top government officials. Gutierrez will then travel to Brazil, where he will attend the inauguration of Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves.

POLICE STATION ATTACKED, WEAPONS STOLEN

PA130126 Paris AFP in Spanish 2207 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Quito, 12 Mar (AFP) -- At least 400 weapons were stolen this morning by a group of 25 well-armed men during an attack on a police station in Quito, Government Minister Luis Robles Plaza reported.

The men broke into the police station, located on the northern section of the capital where it functions as a radio patrol station to receive telephone complaints and where the National Police stores arms, and took with them 100 carbines and 300 revolvers.

BRIEFS

PREFERENCE SYSTEM EXPORTS INCREASE -- According to a report from the Ministry of Industries, Commerce, and Integration, exports last year under the general preference system amounted to approximately $78 million. This reflects a 15 percent increase in comparison to 1983 exports. In descending order, the United States, the FRG, and Japan were the main markets. [Excerpts] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Mar 85 PA]

BELAUNDE ON SALARY DEMAND, DEBT ISSUE

PY122150 Lima Television Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Press conference by President Fernando Belaunde Terry, traditionally held at Government House on Mondays -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Pedro Ortiz of Television Channel No 2] Mr President, excuse my insistence on asking about the workers strike. What is the possibility of workers obtaining a positive reply to their demand of a salary increase?

[Belaunde] The national budget depends on a reserve for these increases. This reserve has to last until the second half of the year. We cannot spend it all in the first half of the year, because if we do, what will happen to our successors? It is difficult to safeguard the country for a successor. This is a patriotic act, showing solidarity, and fraternity with the whole country. I am sure that the state workers will listen to our call, because it is the only way to lead us to an orderly, legal, and dignified transition.

[Reporter] French television wishes to ask a question. Mr President, a lot is being said about the Peruvian foreign debt being the main cause of the crisis affecting this country. However, it is not the only cause. What other factors do you believe contribute to this crisis? I would also like to know if you believe that another kind of economic policy is feasible for Peru?

[Belaunde] Obviously there could be a different economic policy for the country. There are no dogmas or monopolies in this regard. Undoubtedly, a different policy would mean establishing control over foreign exchange, freezing and controlling all prices, actions which you know very well would diminish production. It would be a very healthy move for a government that is to step down in a few months. But I plan for the future patriotically; although I am leaving government, my patriotism remains strong and my responsibilities continue. Thus, I believe that there are different alternatives, but they are very dangerous, because they all aim at the controlling exchange, which is something that has already failed. I think that it is too late to undertake such a change. Perhaps the next administration would like to consider it by setting a 5 year ceiling, speaking in aeronautical terms, or time limit, in order to try another formula. However, I think that it is not appropriate to make a 180-degree change now, some 30 days away from the elections. It would create a risky situation for the country. What the country really needs is great moderation. I have already warned the directors of the National Reserve Bank that the devaluation in response to inflation has been somewhat excessive, but I believe that this will be corrected with time.

POLICEWOMAN KILLED IN DAYLIGHT TERRORIST ATTACK

PY122050 Paris AFP in Spanish 0303 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 12 Mar -- Authorities here have confirmed that two policemen were killed by terrorists during attacks that took place in broad daylight. In an apparent intensification of urban violence a month before the 14 April presidential elections, a policewoman named Sofia Custodio, was shot dead by a group of alleged terrorists. This is the first time that presumedly Shining Path members have attacked a policewoman. The second victim is a Civil Guard sergeant who was shot eight times while he was standing guard at a bank in the populated El Agustino District, northeast of Lima. Two other policemen were shot and seriously wounded by unidentified persons who used stolen cars in the attacks. This was the first time that urban terrorism was carried out in broad daylight.

DE LA MADRID CONGRATULATES GORBACHEV

FL120320 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0240 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid tonight sent a message of congratulations to the new general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev. In the text of the letter to Gorbachev on his new office, President De la Madrid stated: It pleases me to send my most cordial congratulations on your election to the highest office in the CPSU of the Soviet Union and I extend my hopes for the success of your work.

The Mexican presidency also reported tonight that Secretary of Government Manuel Bartlett Diaz has left for Moscow to attend the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko, late chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Mexican Senator Hugo B. Margain and Mexico's Ambassador to the USSR Horacio Flores de la Pena, who was in Mexico, also traveled to Moscow.

FORMER PSUM LEADERS FORM NEW LEFTIST PARTY

PA071547 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 Feb 85 p 4

[Excerpts] Atotonilco, Jalisco, 24 February -- Approximately 500 leaders today officially created the Party of the Socialist Revolution -- whose specific objectives will be to socialize the means of production and political power -- because they feel that there is no other alternative for the Mexican left. During the past 2 days, these leaders who left the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM] and claim to represent approximately 100,000 active members in 24 locations throughout the country, discussed the creation of this new party, the theoretical-ideological guidelines that will rule organization, the formation of a collective leadership to guarantee its internal democratic structure, and the national organization required to attain its goal which has thus far been unattainable for leftist parties: the organization and control of the working and peasant masses. They also discussed participation in the elections and the mechanism needed to guarantee that internal debates be carried out without intolerance because an effort must be made to rescue the socialist theme that was eradicated within the PSUM, avoiding situations that changed that party into an obstacle on the path to socialism. Regarding the electoral issue, the assembly agreed, by an overwhelming majority, to participate under the emblem of the Mexican Workers Party (PMT), but they will make no political commitments to it.

Enrique Laviada, member of the PMT National Committee, noted that the candidacies of several deputies including Cesar Navarro and Alejandro Gascon Mercado, two of the most representative leaders of the new party, are considered by his organization contributors to the opening and strengthening of the left in the Chamber of Deputies. But, he added, the PMT will not ask or demand anything from Gascon or Navarro.

Gascon Mercado analyzed the Mexican situation and said that it is characterized by an increased improverishment of the people and the enrichment of a business and government minority. This, he said, needs to be changed. The people of Mexico have never been "happy," he said and recalled that from colonial times, through the independence, and reform, and the revolution, the people have always been exploited for the benefit of a few. This leads us to the conclusion, he added, that the country needs a radical change in its system of production and in the political power. He noted that the foreign debt that has mortgaged the country is something that should move all Mexicans to seek a radical change in society and government.

COSTA RICA

MONGE CANCELS VISIT TO SOUTHERN BORDER AREA

PA130318 San Mose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez' visit to the Costa Rican-Panamanian border to inaugurate several works, including the new building for vegetable disease control and the Rural Guard has been canceled.

President Monge had planned to travel to Paso Canoa and Laurel on Friday to inaugurate several works at 1200. However, his trip was canceled this afternoon. One of the reasons for the cancellation was that several organizations in the country's southern region have threatened to block the roads on which the president must travel to protest the government's delay in taking action to solve some problems resulting from withdrawal of the banana company.

EL SALVADOR

4,000 SOLDIERS WORKING IN NORTHERN VILLAGES

PA120350 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Mar 85 pp 3, 36

[Text] Approximately 4,000 soldiers are working in northern El Salvador to restore towns affected by the violence of the FMLN and FDR, according to Armed Forces spokesmen. The restoration work is being done in the northeastern sector of the department of the region in question and will continue until the inhabitants return to their homes and resume their activities.

The military authorities are also undertaking the restoration of areas affected in central and northern Cabanas Department. Soldiers are performing similar work in other departments that are threatened by the presence of subversive groups that attack persons, institutions, businesses, factories, transportation, and other public services.

Armed Forces spokesmen denied yesterday that the Salvadoran and Honduran Armies are carrying out counterinsurgency operations in El Salvador. They added that these rumors are spread whenever the Army pressures the terrorist groups in different parts of the country. The spokesmen said that the Salvadoran and Honduran military authorities periodically meet to hold talks and discuss matters concerning their respective duties, but that this does not mean that they violate their sovereignties. They added that the terrorist groups slip into the neighboring country when they are pursued near the border and return to El Salvador a few days later.

ATONAL BATTALION SAID TO DESTROY HEALTH CENTER

PA120432 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, issued a communique involving the elite Atonal Battalion in the destruction of one of our health centers, which only confirms the regime's violation of the most fundamental human rights.

The agreements reached in Geneva on respect for hospitals and health centers, does not mean anything to Durate's troops. It has been the policy of the regime's puppet troops during the past years to go around destroying our health centers in different parts of the country. This policy of destruction also includes temples and peasants' homes.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA REPORTS ON SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR

PA130351 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores held a press conference attended by Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran and Colonel Pablo Nuila Hub, chief of staff of the Head of State Office. Both the foreign minister and the chief of staff were assisted by the public relations secretary and under secretary of the Head of State Office.

Gen Mejia reported on his trip through South America, which he described as "the trip of the return to democracy." The head of state reported that he met with Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta, Costa Rica's Luis Alberto Monge, and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, the latter two in Montevideo. He also met with the Chinese vice president, Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, Ecuador's Leon Febres Cordero, and Colombia's Belisario Betancur.

Mejia said that in all the countries that he visited he expressed the Guatemalan Army's firm determination to hand over power on 14 January 1986 to whomever attains the majority as the result of free elections. In Ecuador, the Ecuadoran and Guatemalan foreign ministers signed cultural and public cooperation agreements.

Summing up, the head of state said that his tour was a complete success. These (?results) would not have been achieved without a big propaganda campaign. Gen Mejia expressed his regret for not being able to attend the inauguration of the Brazilian president-elect, but reiterated his determination to visit the Vatican to see His Holiness John Paul II.

MEJIA QUOTES ORTEGA ON CUBANS IN NICARAGUA

PA120330 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0237 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Report by Carlos Rodolfo Mobil]

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Mar (EFE) -- A total of 4,000 Cubans are acting as advisers to the NIcaraguan Government according to President Daniel Ortega, his Guatemalan colleague General Oscar Mejia Victores disclosed today. The Guatemalan head of state met with Daniel Ortega on 1 March, in Montevideo, before attending the inauguration of Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

At a press conference, Gen Mejia Victores said Ortega admitted there are 4,000 Cubans in his country, of whom 800 are military advisers, and the rest are working in education, health, and other fields.

On 27 February, Ortega announced the government's decision to reduce by 100 the number of Cuban military advisers and approve an indefinite moratorium on the purchase of arms, includng fighter planes.

"I think of this not as a proposal by Nicaragua but a proposal by the Contadora Group -- Panama, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela -- which is supported by all the countries of the region, [quotation marks as received] Mejia Victores said.

Gen Mejia Victores, who assumed power after a coup d'etat on 8 August 1983, reiterated today that Guatemala maintains its neutrality in the Central American conflict. Regarding the alleged support that Cuba and Nicaragua are giving to Guatemalan guerrillas, Gen Mejia Victores said: "I mentioned it to Ortega in a way that they realize the Guatemalan position should be respected, because it is a neutral position."

On several occasions, the Guatemalan military government has said that the rebels operating in Guatemala "are trained in Cuba and Nicaragua."

HONDURAS

JOURNALISTS ARRESTED FOR DISCO, PASTORA BOMBINGS

PA130230 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0047 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Office of the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretary admitted today that the police have arrested two journalists who are believed responsible for the attack on Eden Pastora on 30 March of last year.

Arrested were Peter Torbiornsson, a Swedish television newsman, a daughter of his whose name has not been released, and Bert Ankier Hanse, a Swiss photographer.

Acting Foreign Secretary Tomas Arita Valle told local newsmen that "the three persons were arrested and are being questioned; they are suspected of being connected with an act of terrorism last Saturday night in Tegucigalpa."

The government did not say when the three were arrested or the circumstances under which the arrests took place. The official said that the state's security corps are investigating the possibility that the three foreigners "could be connected with a network of international terrorists." He noted that the authorities are also studying the possibility that these persons could be the ones who, on 30 March of last year, placed a powerful bomb in the general headquarters of anti-Sandinist guerrilla leader Eden Pastora (Commander Cero).

Cero almost died in the attack, which took place in the community of La Penca, in southern Nicaragua. The bomb exploded while he was holding a press conference. Two journalists and several members of Commander Cero's military force died in the explosion.

According to investigations, the bomb may have been taken to La Pence in a backpack carried by Bert Ankier Hanse, who at the beginning was believed to be Swedish or Danish and now Swiss.

The persons arrested in Tegucigalpa are also being connected with a terrorist attack on the Le Volcanique discoteque where many persons were seriously injured when a bomb manufactured with nails, glass, buckshot, and tacks exploded. On Monday, the Morazanist Front for the Liberation of Honduras, (FMLH), which emerged in Honduras in 1979 and has carried out many dynamite attacks, claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to a communique issued by this front, "the attack was carried out to protest the visit that U.S. Vice President George Bush will make to Honduras on the 16th of this month and because many U.S. militarymen go to Le Volcanique."

Most of the injured in the discoteque were foreigners, but none were from the United States. The injured are mostly Nicaraguans who, at the beginning, were belived to work for the Salvadoran Embassy in Tegucigalpa. The Salvadoran Embassy today denied that it is using Nicaraguans in an espionage network as the local press has charged.

Employees of the discoteque told the police that shortly before the bomb exploded some persons, apparently the arrested journalists, left the place in a hurry.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ARRIVES IN MOSCOW, MAKES STATEMENT

PA130325 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2304 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Report from Moscow by special correspondent Luis Cabrera on activities of President Daniel Ortega; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic, arrived in Moscow at 1110 Managua time or 2010 Moscow time. He was welcomed by members of the CPSU Central Committee. Along with his entourage, Ortega went directly to his hotel, which had been reserved for him. The temperature in the area from the Sheremetyevo International Airport to the hotel was less than 3 degrees below zero. Ortega immediately paid his last respects to the deceased Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU general secretary. Ortega and his entourage paid their last respects in a special room in the House of Workers in Moscow.

After taking part in these activities in Moscow, Commander Ortega brought us up to date on what has happened thus far:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Could you tell us about the events that were held in Moscow today?

[Ortega] Upon arriving in Moscow, we went to the House of Workers, where the body of Chernenko lies in state, to pay homage to him, who was a beloved friend of the Nicaraguan people. Perhaps you have learned that Companero Chernenko became indirectly associated with Nicaragua's revolutionary leadership and members of the National Directorate ever since the Communist Party of Cuba held its second congress. He participated in this congress, which took place around 1980. [Words indistinct] at the time, Companero Commander Humberto Ortega headed the Nicaraguan delegation. By coincidence, the two men, Ortega and Chernenko, happened to be together. Since that time, brotherly communication was established between Companero Chernenko and the Sandinist leadership. This communication continued with all the members of the FSLN National Directorate. [Words indistinct] exchange views with Companero Chernenko. Above all, we could always see that he had a great understanding of Central American problems, particularly those of Nicaragua. In addition, he also demonstrated his willingness to help the Nicaraguan people. Our last encounter with Companero Chernenko occurred here in Moscow. We again found him to have a great and special understanding and determination to help Nicaragua confront economic problems [words indistinct].

As Nicaraguans and revolutionaries, we have done our duties [words indistinct] on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and the FSLN. We have expressed our personal condolences to Chernenko's widow and his family. This was a very emotional moment. We share the grief of the Soviet people, the CPSU, and his family.

[Reporter] Commander, you happened to be near the Greek foreign minister when you paid your last respects to Chernenko and he spoke briefly to you. Can you tell us about the conversation?

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] sent greetings to Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and an invitation for him to visit Nicaragua. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Commander, what are you going to do next during Chernenko's funeral?

[Ortega] The funeral will be held tomorrow [words indistinct] that will be 2 or 3 in the morning, Managua time. We will take advantage of our visit here on the occasion of this leader's passing away to hold some talks. [words indistinct] [end recording]

FSLN LEADERS SIGN SOVIET CONDOLENCE BOOK

PA121643 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, vice president of the Republic, and members of the FSLN national leadership signed the condolence book at the Soviet Embassy in Magagua yesterday expressing their sorrow over the death of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The first to sign the book was Dr Sergio Ramirez followed by members of the FSLN national leadership Tomas Borge Martinez, Victor Tirado Lopez, Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Henry Ruiz, Luis Carrion Cruz, Jaime Wheelock Roman, Bayardo Arce Castano, and Carlos Nunez Tellez. Nicaraguan citizens from different sectors of the country continued to visit the Soviet Embassy to sign the book throughout the afternoon.

COMMANDER RUIZ MEETS WITH YUGOSLAV COMMISSION

PA112226 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] A mixed Nicaraguan-Yugoslav commission held this morning was the first of several meetings to take place this week. The mixed commission is made up of Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz and Mito Pejovski, member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. This first meeting was also attended by the ministers of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute and the Mines and Hydrocarbons Institute. This meeting dealt mostly with our country's economic situation.

WHEELOCK TELLS ENTERPRISES TO PRODUCE MORE

PA112228 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Minister Jaime Wheelock Roman has urged directors of state enterprises to be more efficient in their work.

The Sandinist leader said that state enterprises that do not produce profits this year will be closed regardless of the kind of goods they produce and their location.

TRIAL AGAINST EX-SANDINIST MONTEALEGRE BEGINS

PA081606 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Mar 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] Dr Yolanda Huembes Ramirez, second judge of Managua's criminal court, yesterday opened the period for presenting evidence in the trial against former high-ranking Sandinist official Cesar Augusto Montealegre Valle.

Montealegre Valle is being tried for the crime of associating to commit crimes, exposing people to danger, and crimes against international order, according to the charge made by Justice Minister Dr Ernesto Castillo.

According to the charge, Montealegre Valle was collaborating with the National Security Office, providing it with information that compromised the Sandinist Front's clandestine activities.

The deadline for presenting evidence expires at midnight on Monday, 11 March, after which the judge will have 3 days to deliver a verdict. If the defendant is found guilty, the judge will have another 3 days to sentence him.

In accordance with the penal code, the sentence for the crime of "exposing people to danger" ranges from 6 months to 3 years. The crime against international order is punishable with 10 to 20 years, while association to commit crimes is punishable with 1 to 3 years.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS ECONOMIC POLICY, PRODUCTIVITY

PA091747 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Mar 85 p 12

[Excerpt] Addressing directors of state enterprises yesterday at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center, Industry Minister Emilio Baltodano explained the factors that led to a turnaround in the economic policy, stressing the intensification of aggression and deterioration of trade terms.

If until recently the economy was oriented toward investments, then subsidizing social expenses and defense under the current economic program makes it necessary to consolidate the transformations brought about and to simultaneously guarantee the defense of the revolution, Baltodano said.

He also asserted that the priorities in the 1985 program include guaranteeing the defense of the economy and the production goals through an increase in productivity, a flexible price and wage policy, and the financial control of enterprises.

Other cornerstones of the program include the protection of workers real wages through guaranteed supplies in the commisaries, curbing state expenses, and new fiscal laws. Together, these measures seek to encourage production and to gradually limit the phenomenon of speculation.

In addition, Roberto Gutierrez, deputy planning minister of the Aricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry, discussed the problems of state enterprises in achieving the proposed profitability and production goals. He stressed that directors must replace the former relations marked by exploitation with new ones characterized by cooperation.

Among the most important obstacles, Gutierrez mentioned the financial disorganization of the People's Property Area [APP], the low level of worker participation in management activities, deficient productivity, a lack of connection between the production goals and the incentives given to workers, and the diversity of administrative policies that complicate relations between enterprises and the state.

Other factors that affect the APP include the limited availability of foreign exchange, the price policy -- which until recently gravitated negatively over financial results -- the banks' credit and financing policy -- which does not serve as an incentive for the APP -- and the lack of suitable attention given by the government's institutions to productive enterprises.

Gutierrez also stressed the existence of unnecessary disagreements between the administrations and the worker organizations, which hinder the harmony needed to achieve the common goal.

For his part, Labor Minister Benedicto Meneses called for increased links between salaries and productivity by means of a dynamic implementation of labor regulations. He stressed: "It is important not to handle productivity as an abstract concept, but rather as a dissemination of goals, tasks, and watchwords designed to carry out the work efficiently and without waste of time."

Due to a lack of objective information on production goals and due to the enterprises' problems in achieving these goals, productivity has not been increased, Meneses added. To counteract this problem, he suggested closer ties between the administration and the unions and called for implementing a propaganda campaign on specific ways to promote production.

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES 1985 ECONOMIC PLAN

PA'01651 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Finance Minister William Hupper has described the 1985 economic plan as a painful readjustment because it involves moving from a development-oriented economy to a war and defense-oriented economy. According to Hupper, the painful thing is that the advances made and the important tasks will have to be postponed due to the aggression.

He said: The new measures are geared toward the military defense of the homeland. In this regard, the official stressed: This is why a very large contribution is required from the state apparatus and from all Nicaraguans. This is why quality progress is needed in all work areas in order to confront this difficult situation.

He added that the international economic crisis is hitting us very hard and that to confront it, an entire investment program has been set in motion in an effort to sell our products at prices in accordance with production costs rather than at the prices capriciously set by the international markets. There is also a plan to replace our imports as much as possible.

As for the military aggression, he said that an entire organizational phase is under way for the country's defense.

The finance minister added that to curb the impact of price gouging there are measures like an aggressive policy of state-set prices and elimination of subsidies, which in the past 2 years only enabled the merchants to keep the price differentials for themselves. He added that eliminating the subsidies is merely an acknowledgement of this situation and an effort to keep the workers' resources from falling into the hands of price gougers. This will serve to establish more secure distribution networks.

SUGAR PRODUCTION CURRENTLY MEETS ESTIMATE

PA070421 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Thus far this year the sugar mills have produced about 3 million quintals of sugar, which represents 89 percent of the toal estimate, 3,022 million quintals, for this season.

According to authorities, this year the average yield per manzana was 186 tons, surpassing the 177 tons per manzana that was estimated for the sugarcane harvest.

The same sources said that the main problems faced by the country's sugar mills are: workers absenteeism during the weekend; shortage of spare parts, seriously affecting equipment functioning, and the lack of tools. If these problems are not solved, next year's sugarcane harvest will be a serious problem.

CRUZ COMMENTS ON DENIAL TO RETURN TO COUNTRY

PA082126 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Nicaraguan opposition leader Arturo Cruz, whom the Managua regime refused to allow into the country, has stated that if something happens to him the Sandinists are to be held responsible.

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...But I know this is only a pretext so I do not enter the country. There is also something else: As we say in Nicaragua, they may have thought that an ounce of prevention was worth a pound of cure.

If I turn up tomorrow, as the Nicaraguans say, with my toes pointing up anywhere in Central America, the Sandinists are the only ones who could have done it. They will be prepared to say: You see, remember we said that the CIA was going to kill him. However, if I am killed I want to make something perfectly clear. I want the Nicaraguan people to listen to this carefully: If I, Arturo Cruz, am killed, I do not hold anyone responsible but the Sandinists. They are the only ones who would order my assassination. [end recording]

The Nicaraguan leader, who opposes Sandinism, added that the Managua regime refuses to talk to Nicaraguans, and only cares about talking to President Ronald Reagan or his Secretary of State George Shultz.

ARDE COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR MILITARY TO REBEL

PA130305 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2333 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose, 12 Mar (DPA) -- In a communique issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) Eden Pastora -- Commander Cero -- has urged the members of the Nicaraguan Government's military forces to rebel.

The communique broadcast by Voice of Sandino, the official voice of ARDE's combatants who are currently fighting in Nicaragua's central, southern, and eastern regions, states the following:

"1. We have begun a new insurrectional phase in the urban centers through our members who are currently in the Army, people's militia, and other organizations in the Managua government's military structures.

"2. The actions that have already been carried out and the ones to follow show the steadfast determination of the democratic military men who fought against the Somozist dictatorship and who today want to contribute to the rescue of the true Nicaraguan revolution, which the nine Sandinists and the National Directorate have given away to Cuba and the USSR.

"3. We urge all members of the Armed Forces to follow the example of their ancestors Benjamin Zeledon and Augusto Cesar Sandino, the general of free men, and rebel against the Cuban-Soviet invaders, in order to rescue our national honor and dignity, which is the aspiration of our long-suffering people."

HUGO SPADAFORA CALLS FOR ANTI-IMPERIALIST BRIGADE

PA091711 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1910 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Statement made by Panamanian Dr Hugo Spadafora, broadcast on the "A Voice From Latin America and the Caribbean to the World" news program on 7 March -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Considering our liberators' internationalist example, and taking into account the fact that in the Third World there are already many progressive governments, the conditions are right for creating a unified military force, prepared to opportunely counteract the open or disguised political-military interventions to which our countries are being subjected by the neocolonialist powers.

The example of the Panamanian brigade, formed to fight in Nicaragua against the U.S. Government-supported Somozist dictatorship, is proof of this. We have analyzed this experience and considered the objective and subjective conditions that characterize Latin American and Third World societies, which are struggling for their true liberation. We can now state that the time has come to form a Bolivarian force, which is independent of the superpowers and other governments, and is capable of fighting in any part of the continent or the Third World where an armed struggle is the only way left for the people to achieve their liberation.

As our liberators taught us, this force can be and should be formed publicly and openly, without unnecessary political guilt complexes.

Today we are criticized by Nicaragua, Panama, the United States, and the international left wing.

We are accused of being CIA agents, mercenaries, and such. They are mistaken. The truth is that the USSR to [word indistinct] its existence, has successfully carried out the policy of supporting national liberation movements on all the continents, especially in the Third World. This is done for its own benefit, and it skillfully conceals the imperialist nature of its foreign policy.

Nevertheless, the popular and anticommunist insurrections in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua, are demonstrating that the situation has changed. The USSR can no longer hide from the world the imperialist nature of its policies toward the Third World. The war against the Somozist dictatorship generated the creation of armed Bolivarian and Inter-American brigades, formed by Latin American, European, and U.S. volunteers. This Latin American movement of armed solidarity aroused the sympathy and support of the entire continent and reaped great political and military benefits for the FSLN.

A similar phenomenon of Bolivarian solidarity was seen during the Malvinas war. The Cuban Government, perceiving the [word indistinct] it was facing, took advantage of the situation and sent a few dozen Cuban, Chilean, Uruguayan, and Argentine specialists to fight against Somoza. Many of them were disguised as Spanish volunteers. In the current war, volunteers from many countries have been part of the antitotalitarian forces since the very first moment. Many of these volunteers are former members of the Panamanian anti-Somozist brigade.

The organized formation of a volunteer brigade that will participate as such in the war will bring political and military advantages to the Nicaraguan democrats. Among these advantages are:

1. It will highlight the political significance of the dozens of democratic volunteers who are already fighting in Nicaragua.

2. It will increase continental and international sympathy for the democratic cause, greatly neutralizing existing communist propaganda. This is of vital importance in this struggle against an enemy on a global level.

3. It will serve as a vehicle to channel the enormous human and material resources that can be obtained through an adequate information and propaganda campaign.

To achieve these objectives and to be faithful to its nature and origins, the Bolivarian brigade must adopt a pluralist, democratic, nonaligned, and Latin American policy and language, taking these banners away from Castro-communism, which so falsely and effectively uses them.

As is well-known, the unity of antitoalitarian forces is a prior and obligatory step toward triumph over communism in Nicaragua. Consequently, the Bolivarian brigade must put into effect a policy of unity, that is, of collaboration with all the groups fighting against communism. In this manner, unity could also serve as a catalyst for democratic unity in Nicaragua. Moreover, with their natural intelligence and pragmatism, the Nicaraguan peasants speak of and want to hear a language of unity. This is why the brigade, in supporting this policy, will also be identifying with the people who bear the brunt of the struggle: the peasants. All of this will serve to consolidate and increase the forces waging an armed fight against communism in Nicaragua.

FIDEL CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE ON CHERNENKO'S DEATH

FL130020 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A message of condolences on the death of Konstantin Chernenko was sent by Cuban leader Fidel Castro to Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU, and Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first vice president of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The message points out that with the death of Chernenko, the Soviet Union has lost a great figure, whose long and solid career in the service of socialism won him international respect and esteem. Elsewhere, the message states that Konstantin Chernenko, who had dedicated himself since his youth to the extraordinary task of building socialism, in recent years took on responsibilities in the management of the CPSU, and late in life, he assumed the extraordinary task of serving as general secretary of the Central Committee. The message indicates that during that period, Konstantin Ustinovich contributed to promoting, within the framework of socialist society, the concepts aimed at realizing the nature of developed socialism and its perspectives.

Castro's message says that in Chernenko, Cuba had a steady friend who expressed in an exemplary manner the solidarity of the CPSU and the Soviet Government and people with our socialist island.

We will not forget his presence among us at the second party congress. His permanent vigilance for the fraternal Soviet-Cuban relations made him deserving of the recognition of the Communists and Cuban people.

The message reiterates Cuba's confidence in the party and people of Vladimir Ilyich, its security in the firm and active defense of the principles of peace, sustained by the rejection of all attempts to impose the military supremacy of imperialism by taking the route of peaceful coexistence. We also know the Soviet Union's adherence to the principles of internationalism is unbreakable.

Castro's condolence message also states: We are convinced that the friendship between our peoples and parties, the solidarity that links us, and Soviet cooperation in the cause of defending national sovereignty and with the building of socialism in Cuba are irreversible.

Raul Castro To Attend Funeral

FL121302 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, last night left for the Soviet Union heading our country's party and government delegation attending Konstantin Chernenko's funeral. The delegation was seen off at the Jose Marti International Airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the party's first secretary and president of the Councils of State and Ministers. The delegation also includes Politburo and Secretariat member Jorge Risquet and Lionel Soto, Secretariat member and Cuban ambassador to the USSR.

Malmierca Signs Condolence Book

FL120430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A condolence book on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, secretary general of the Soviet Union's CPSU, has been opened at the embassy of this brother nation in Cuba. Foreign Minister Malmierca, vice foreign minister, and many members of the diplomatic corps from socialist countries arrived at the embassy to extend their condolences. The book will remain open so that our people can sign it.

Havana Book of Condolences

FL121744 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A book of condolences on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, will be opened today from 1500 to 2300 hours in front of the Jose Marti Monument in Havana's Revolutionary Square. Workers, peasants, students, members of our armed forces, housewives, and the general public will be able to express their condolences for the death of the beloved Soviet leader.

BRAVO ON ADVISERS IN NICARAGUA, REGIONAL DEBT

FL111945 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0050 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The international financial organizations are responsible for an explosive situation in Latin American countries by creating centers of turmoil, Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, said. The official, who was interviewed in Mexico's international airport, said the main insurrection centers in Latin America are not the revolutionary and counterrevolutionary movements but the international organizations which painfully squeeze the foreign debt payments from these countries.

He said the Cuban Government is not only interested in the Central American conflict but also in the foreign debt problem that the majority of the continent's countries have, because the international financial organizations have ignored the proposals made in the Cartagena Consensus.

Bravo, who is in Mexico en route to Japan, said the withdrawal of 100 Cuban military advisers from Nicaragua is a Cuban Government action not only directed at the withdrawal from Central America of Cuban military advisers but also U.S. advisers. He pointed out the U.S. Government's hypocrisy: It says it supports the Contadora Group peace movement, but in reality it does the opposite. He said U.S. aid to counterrevolutionary movements in Central America is nothing other than supporting dynasties like Somoza's in Nicaragua, and that the Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua do not represent any danger which the United States is trying to suggest. He explained that Cuban aid to the Nicaraguan Government has not only consisted of military advisers but also teachers, doctors, and social services.

The Cuban official stressed that the Latin American countries will neither be able to pay their foreign debt nor the interest with the present levels of exports which will lead to grave consequences inasmuch as the continent's countries cannot continue to endure the present situation.

U.S. MEDIA REACTION TO REAGAN POLICIES EXPLORED

PA120045 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Washington's most recent threats against the Sandinist people's revolution do not appear to have pleased many U.S. citizens who fear that imperiousness of their government will plunge the country into a regional conflict of unforeseeable consequences.

As matter of fact, fears in this sense have grown especially after the U.S. President and his advisers publicly admitted that they are trying to topple Nicaragua's legally established government.

For instance, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and the weekly BUSINESSWEEK sharply reflect the views of many U.S. sectors. Last week, both publications carried articles in which they disclosed the so-called covert operations of the U.S. CIA against Nicaragua. In this regard, they showed how the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary movement is being financed, directed, and organized by that espionage and subversion agency.

The people who Reagan called freedom fighters and compared to the U.S. forefathers were described by THE WALL STREET JOURNAL as simple CIA puppets who earn salaries of up to $2,000 a month. On the basis of secret CIA documents, the articles describe the military actions organized by that agency against the people's Sandinist revolution and state that these acts of vandalism have had and continue to have the support of the White House.

Both THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and BUSINESSWEEK mention the murders, rapes, and acts of sabotage that are committed by the Somozist guardsmen, who are diametrically opposed to anything regarded as respecting human rights. Specifically, BUSINESSWEEK reminds the U.S. Congress that the approval of the government's request to keep financing such bands would make lawmakers direct accomplices of White House plans to overthrow a legally established government.

According to some observers, this realism shown by major U.S. press media is an indication that Washington's aggressive policy in Central America has not managed to penetrate large bodies of U.S. public opinion. The analysts add that the significance of these remarks by exponents of the U.S. media linked to the managerial sectors is that they reflect the fear of U.S. businessmen and manufacturers that an aggression against Nicaragua will result in a serious disruption of Washington's ties with the rest of Latin America. Without doubt, this assessment by businessmen, who see their businesses in America in danger, takes into account that, save for a few reactionary governments, the White House's adventurism does not enjoy the sympathy of the region.

In any event, whether it was out of a sense of realism or sheer commercial considerations, the criticisms in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and BUSINESSWEEK indicate that influential U.S. sectors do not support Ronald Reagan's policy in Central America and fear that the United States will endure a crisis like the one it suffered, with all sorts of attendant consequences, after it launched its war of aggression against the heroic Vietnamese people.

'OUR AMERICA' ON MOTLEY PRAISING PINOCHET

PA091922 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 7 Mar 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The recent visit to Chile by Langhorne Motley, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and his praise for the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship serve to confirm once again the true intentions of the White House toward Latin America.

The act of affirming, as Motley did, that Western democracy is indebted to Chilean fascism because it overthrew the constitutional government of Salvador Allende in 1973 is evidence that Washington still prefers to have bloody regimes in our region.

Ronald Reagan's special envoy to Santiago made Washington's position in this regard clearer by reiterating that today Chile is in good hands, even, we might add, if those hands are stained with the blood of Allende and thousands of other murdered people.

Motley's statements which are an insult to those who have suffered and still suffer from barbaric fascism, were a blow to those who had hoped for that Washington would call to its senses a regime like that of Pinochet, which has been notorious for its ferociousness and irrationality.

According to an AP report, at no time did Motley press the dictator to put limits on the repression or to make efforts to turn the country toward democracy. The liking of the White House for so-called strong governments is more evident if we recall the Longhorne Motley is the most important U.S. official to visit Chile since Pinochet reimposed the state of siege in this South American nation at the end of last year. That measure resulted in imprisonment for more than 15,000 citizens and in banishment of many to inhospitable regions.

Paradoxically, Motley, speaking in the midst of the huge concentration camp that the fatherland of O'Higgins has been turned into, has asked the so-called Western democracies to congratulate the Chilean dictatorship for its crimes. This U.S. position is not surprising if we recall that the Santa Fe Program, a U.S. Government document on foreign policy calls for support of the forces opposed to the so-called communist eruption in Latin America, even if this means torture and death.

At the very moment that Motley was praising Pinochet, the Chilean Human Rights Commission was denouncing in Rome the confinement of Sergio Vuskovic, president of the Valparasio branch of the People's Democratic Movement, and 10 others in a remote Andean military post.

(Gonzalo Rodila), vice president of the University of Chile's Student Federation, is being held at the same post, which is fenced in.

A few hours after this charge was filed, Nobel Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel said in New York that in Chile there is a dictatorship of terror and that U.S. support for such a repudiated regime is unacceptable. Esquivel, an Argentine who is closely linked to the struggle for human rights, said that in Chile there is no respect at all for individual freedom and that many Chileans are either in prison or have been tortured.

But Washington apparently likes Pinochet and his methods, which are aimed at safeguarding the big imperialist interests that put him in power through a bloody coup d'etat promoted by ITT and the CIA. This is why it should not have been expected that Motley would express the slightest criticism of Chilean fascism.

TRADE ACCORD SIGNED WITH MEXICO ON 11 MARCH

FL120256 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A partial reach accord between the Governments of Cuba and Mexico was signed today by Cuba's Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Mexico's Secretary for Commerce and Industrial Development Hector Hernandez Cervantes.

The document grants a decrease in duties on more than 20 Cuban products entering Mexico's market, among them sugar, tobacco, milk cows, medicines, and others.

During the signing of the accord, Cabrisas said that a month of intense work had ended, and the accord was a result of Mexico's Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda's visit to Cuba.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNION CALLS FOR STRIKE

FL121624 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] On the island of Aruba in the Neitherlands Antilles, there is a fairly widespread response to a strike called by the public enployees union. It is in protest against the 10-percent salary cut. The union claims that some 60 percent of their members are on strike but the success of the action is very unevenly distributed. In education and public works, the strike is almost total. But public utilities and the airport are working normally. Today, the union tried to come closer to a total stoppage.

The authorities have not reacted to the strike so far, except to say that strikers will receive no pay.

Police Disperse Strikers

FL122320 Bridgetown CANA in English 2259 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Oranjestad, Aruba, March 12, CANA -- Riot police used tear gas to break up strikers gathered outside government headquarters here today. The disgruntled workers were waiting on the government of this Dutch-speaking island to start negotiations with their unions on pay increases.

Eyewitnesses said the strikers defied police orders to leave the site and responded instead by shouting anti-government slogans, singing hymns and waving the Aruban flag. The unrest is seen here as the very first real threat to the government in the last 13 years. The strikers said they would intensify their action in the coming days.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

EX-TRADE MINISTER NAMED OPPOSITION LEADER

FL081900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1644 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, March, CANA -- Former Trade Minister Vincent Beache of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party was today named leader of the opposition in Parliament. Beache, who has been member of Parliament since 1974, succeeds Milton Cato, who resigned from Parliament three months ago.

The party recently chose Hudson Tannis, the former foreign minister who lost his seat in last July's general election, as party leader to replace Cato, a former prime minister. Cato has led the party for all its 29 years.

Meanwhile Louis Jones, who won last month's by-election in the east St George Constituency here, has been sworn in as the ruling New Democratic Party's (NDP) 10th member in the House of Assembly. Jones defeated Donald Browne of the Labour Party to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Cato who had represented the constituency since 1961.

The NDP of Prime Minister James Mitchell now has 10-3 majority of elected members in the 13-seat House.